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RHODE ISLAND UNIFORMS IN THE REVOLUTION¹

by Anne S. K. Brown

For a small colony ruled much of the time by Quakers, Rhode Island has had a remarkably warlike past. It was especially warlike in 1774 when no less than ten new military companies were chartered, three of which survive today in the Kentish Guards, Varnum Continentals, and the United Train of Artillery.² Two more at least lifted their caps to us and left them behind in a perfect state of preservation.

One of these caps (Plate 1) survives as a trophy of war—the only American trophy—in the Royal United Service Museum in London. It belonged to the Newport Light Infantry, Captain Charles Spooner commanding, and was doubtless provided by His Britannic Majesty to sit upon a most subversive head, if one reads the motto "*Patria Cara, Carior Libertas*" under the royal cypher—"Our country is dear, but liberty's dearer." Though the company disbanded in 1776, releasing its members for service in the Continental Army, it left on its cap a message the British must have read often in the past 180 years and, we hope, understood, since they are generally proficient in Latin.

The other cap (Plate 2) was worn by the Providence Grenadiers, chartered in the same year under Captain Jonathan Arnold. This company built the fortifications on Prospect Hill in 1776 and participated in the defense of the colony during the anxious days when the British were momentarily expected on the mainland. It was disbanded in 1780.

The most important company formed in 1774 was the Kentish Guards, raised by Captain James

W. Varnum. With Private Nathaniel Greene in its ranks and his cousin Christopher as lieutenant, it marched for Boston the day after Lexington only to be recalled by the Tory governor. According to a letter of Ethan Clarke, the Kentish Guards originally wore red coats faced with green, white waistcoats and breeches with black gaiters, and a tricorne hat in which the officers wore a black plume. A knapsack of canvas painted red with gold initials and number in a black oval is preserved in the East Greenwich armory.

Its founder, the only Rhode Islander besides Greene to wear a general's stars in the Continental Army, wears a brigadier general's uniform in a portrait by Peale in Independence Hall (Plate 3). Varnum graduated in the first class at Brown, then called Rhode Island College. When Rhode Island's Army of Observation was formed, he commanded a regiment. Later he joined Washington in New York, being mentioned in dispatches after the stand on Murray Hill. In 1777 he was promoted brigadier general, commanded at Red Bank, wintered at Valley Forge, and fought in the Battle of Rhode Island. From 1779 until his death nine years later at the age of 40, he headed the Rhode Island militia as a major-general. After the war he served in Congress and became a Federal judge.

The Kentish Guards are still active today, appearing at ceremonies in a reconstructed Continental uniform including a round leather cap with bearskin crest such as was worn by Lafayette's Light Infantry. Today the blue coats of the Guards are faced with red.



Plate 1. Cap of the Newport Light Infantry, c. 1775. A black cap with gold embroidery and cypher, black lettering, and the figure of Liberty in colored threads outlined in white on a blue ground. Drawing by C. C. P. Lawson.

General Nathaniel Greene (Plate 4), generally conceded the ablest Continental commander after Washington, received his first military training in the Kentish Guards. Son of a Quaker anchor-smith of Warren, he was elected to the Assembly in 1770. When that body sent him to Boston to purchase military supplies, he spent hours on Boston Common watching the British soldiers drill, then smuggled a red-coat deserter into Rhode Island to drill the Guards.

Greene commanded the Rhode Island Army of Observation. Its discipline so impressed Washington that he promptly made Greene a brigadier, and later one of the first four major generals in the Continental Army. In 1776 he became Quarter-



Plate 2. Cap of the Providence Grenadiers, c. 1775. A black mitre with back and flap red, lion, anchor, and edges in gold, and the scroll and flourishes in silver. In the Rhode Island Historical Society Collections.

master General. Greene's magnificent rearguard actions at Brandywine and Monmouth twice preserved Washington's army from destruction. His brilliant conduct of the campaign in the Southern Department richly earned him the five plantations its grateful inhabitants presented to him after the war. Unfortunately, he did not live to enjoy them, for he died from a stroke in 1786 at the age of 44.

In 1907 a splinter company calling itself the Varnum Continentals was formed from the Kentish Guards. Today, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Howard V. Allen, it wears the blue uniform faced with white prescribed for the Rhode Island Line after the alliance with France. In the company's East Greenwich armory Colonel Allen

has installed a magnificent collection of arms and prints, as well as Rhode Island uniforms, which is well worth visiting.

The United Company of the Train of Artillery is another company that still wears a Continental uniform for full dress. It was formed in 1775 of two companies that date from 1774: the Providence Fusiliers, under Captain Daniel Hitchcock, and the Providence Train of Artillery under Captain Daniel Tillinghast. Today it wears a powder-blue uniform faced with buff and laced with gold, with buff waistcoat and breeches and black gaiters. The officers have a red-plumed tricorné hat bound with yellow tape, and fringed gold epaulettes with the cypher worked in gold on a red ground.

Another chartered command, even older than the others, was The Cadet Company, commanded in 1774 by Colonel Joseph Nightingale. It wore scarlet coats faced with yellow, according to the memoirs of Elkanah Watson who was a member.

The Rhode Island Army of Observation was a force raised during a crisis in the State government which threatened to render it defenseless in the



Plate 3. Brigadier General James M. Varnum. He wears a blue coat with buff facings and waistcoat, gold buttons and epaulettes, and silver stars. Portrait by C. W. Peale in Independence Hall.



Plate 4. Major General Nathaniel Greene. He wears a blue coat lined and faced buff with buff waistcoat, breeches, and boot tops. Colored mezzotint by S. Arlent Edwards after C. W. Peale.

national crisis. Governor Wanton had been re-elected before the extent of his Tory sympathies were realized. When, the day after Lexington, he recalled the Rhode Island troops marching to Boston, he was promptly locked up. The Assembly next, in May 1775, "embodied" a new force whose officers were commissioned in the name of His Majesty the King, since the Governor was not available. For this army were recruited the Rhode Island Train of Artillery and the two Rhode Island regiments of foot which fought throughout the war.

The Train of Artillery marched to Boston under Major John Crane and fought at the Battle of Long Island, where a cap (Plate 5) belonging to Lieutenant Benajah Carpenter, was picked up on the battlefield. It now reposes in the museum at Fraunces Tavern, New York. It is made of six pieces of



jacked leather sewn together and has a small brown and red tassel on the crown. Painted on the curiously shaped front-piece are an anchor and the mottoes, "For our Country" and "In Te Domine Speramus" (Our Hope is in Thee, O Lord), thus rounding out the traditional motto of Rhode Island.

The uniform worn in 1775-1776 (Plate 6) was a brown coat faced with red with brass anchor buttons, white linen waistcoat and overalls, and black spatter-dashes for the men. The officers (Plate 7) wore boots, gold epaulettes and crimson sashes, and were armed with sabres and espontoons. Later this regiment became the 3d Continental Artillery, wearing blue uniforms faced with red. Crane succeeded General Knox in command of the regiment when the latter became Chief of Artillery.

The First Rhode Island Regiment of Foot was commanded by Varnum, and later by Christopher Greene. Christopher, like his cousin Nathaniel, served in both the Assembly and the ill-fated expedition to Quebec whose sad conclusion Trumbull's famous painting (Plate 8) shows. Greene commanded the 1st Battalion, which made a heroic march through the wilderness to Canada, only to

Plate 5. Cap of the Rhode Island Train of Artillery, c. 1776. A black cap with a silver anchor and the upper scroll red with silver letterings; the lower scroll is gold with black letters and all other decoration is gold. Drawing by C. C. P. Lawson after an example in Fraunces Tavern, New York.

be delayed by the non-arrival of the other troops until all hope of surprise was lost. Captain Samuel Ward of the First Rhode Island is the second figure from the left. He wears a rifle jacket, trousers, and cap, all green, trimmed with a yellowish fur. The red belt over his left shoulder is trimmed with silver, and his brown moccasins have red and silver beading.

Greene became colonel of the First Rhode Island after his exchange in 1777. He wears the uniform of blue faced white authorized in 1779 in a portrait (Plate 9) belonging to Brown University. In this capacity he served on the most spectacular all-Rhode Island team in the war, successfully defending Fort Mercer on the Delaware with 400 men against 1200 Hessians, while Major Thayer made his famous last-ditch stand across the river at Fort Mifflin, and General Varnum was in overall command. Later he was brutally hacked to pieces by

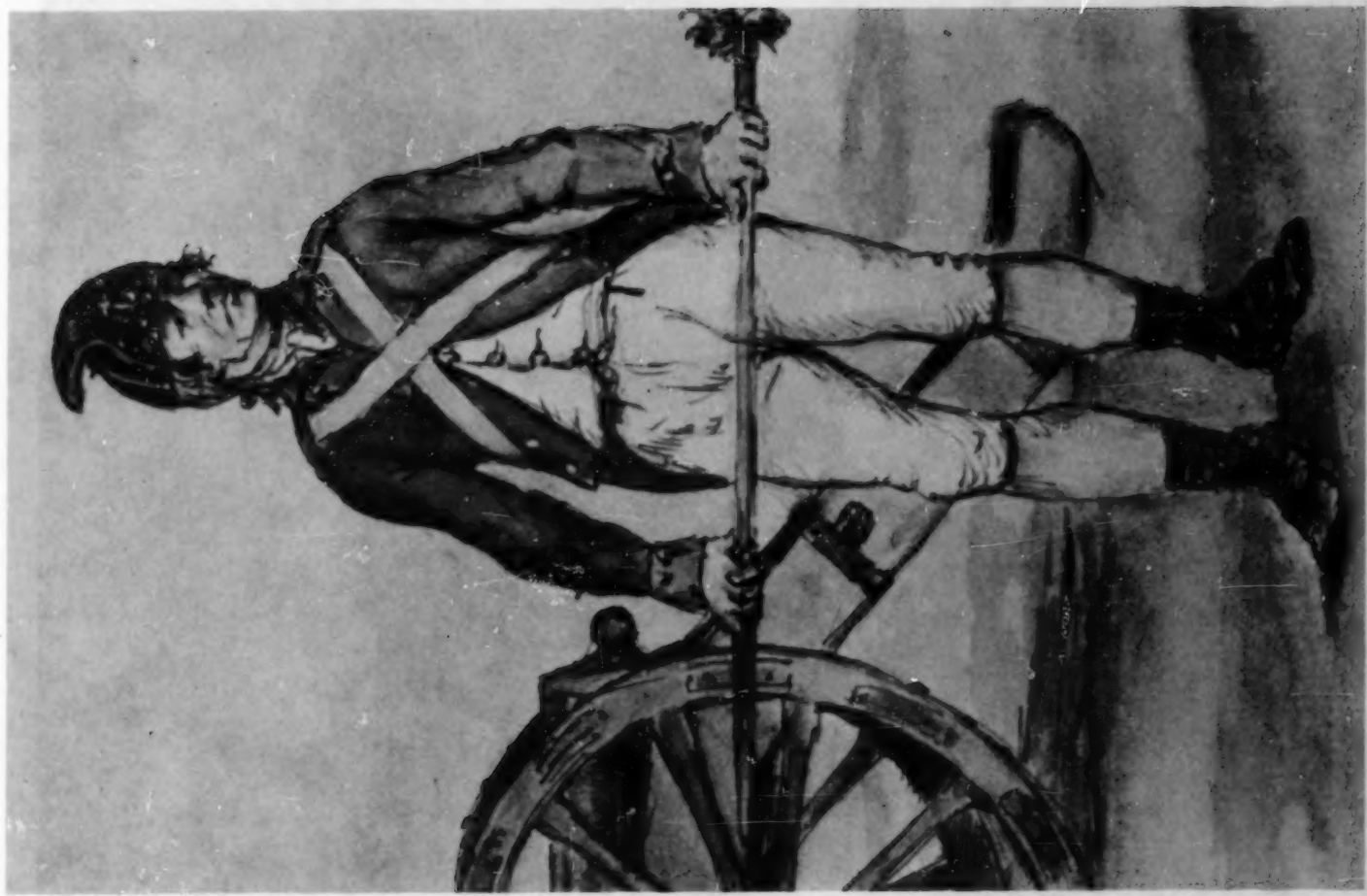


Plate 6. Matross, Rhode Island Train of Artillery, 1775.
Drawing by C. C. P. Lawson.

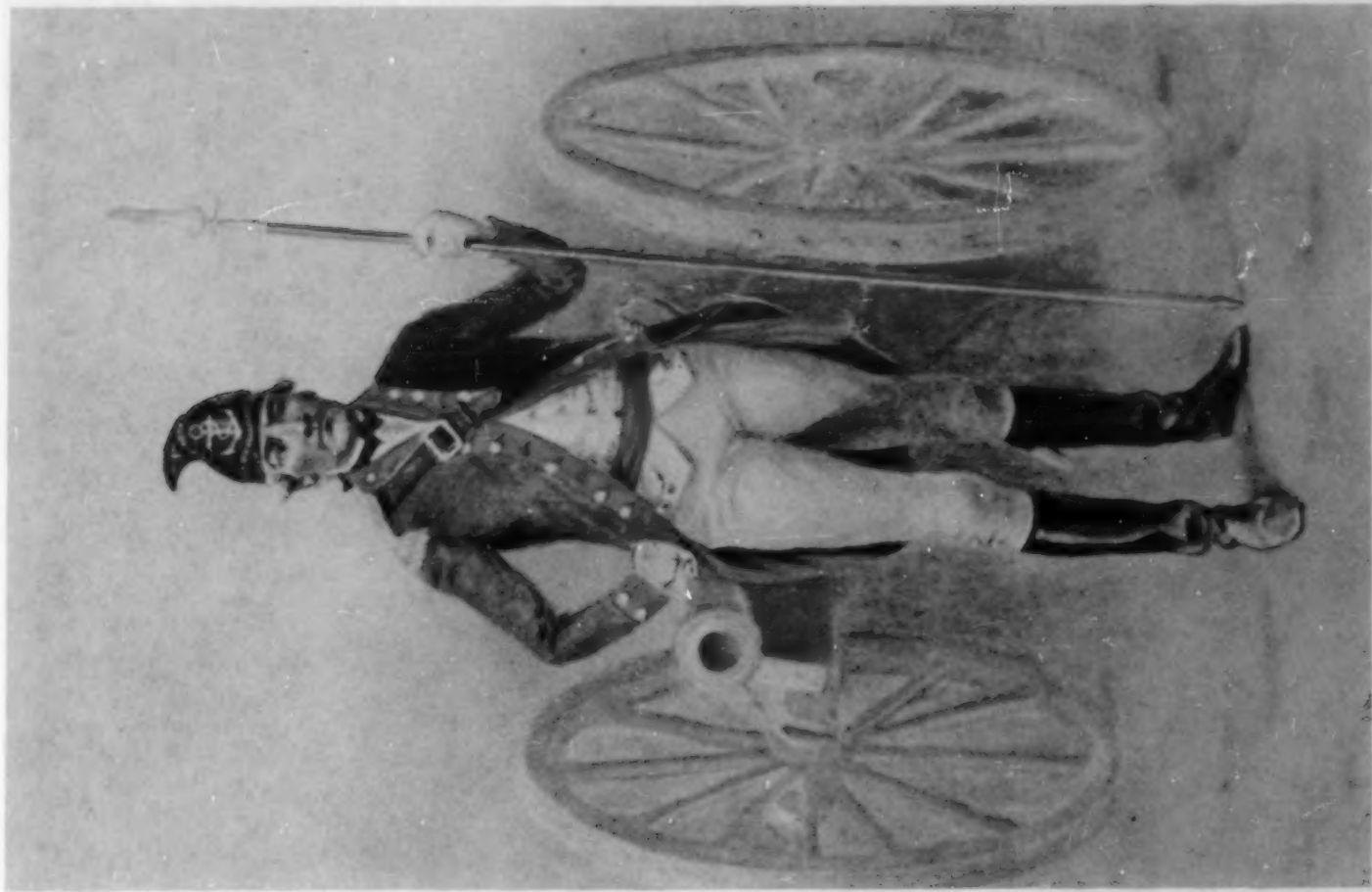


Plate 7. Officer, Rhode Island Train of Artillery, 1775.
Drawing by Charles M. Lefferts in UNIFORMS OF THE ...
AMERICAN REVOLUTION, courtesy of the New-York Historical Society.



Plate 8. Engraving by W. Ketterlins of the painting by John Trumbull. The second figure from the left is Captain Samuel Ward of the First Rhode Island Regiment; his uniform, described in the text, is based on the coloring of the copy in the Yale School of Fine Arts.



Plate 9. Colonel Christopher Greene, First Rhode Island Regiment, 1779. Portrait belonging to Brown University.

Delancey's refugee dragoons when surprised in his headquarters at Croton, N. Y., while defending the approaches to the Hudson.

The Second Rhode Island Regiment was led by Colonel Daniel Hitchcock, formerly of the Providence Fusiliers and a graduate of Yale. It served at Long Island, in New York, and in New Jersey. There the poor colonel, having been mentioned in dispatches in New York and personally congratulated by Washington at Trenton, died of exhaustion after fighting three days and marching three nights without rest. He was succeeded by Colonel Israel Angell on 13 January 1777.

At first the Second wore brown coats faced with red like the Train of Artillery. After 1777 it wore washable linen hunting-shirts or "frocks," with overalls and felt hats bound with white braid (Plate 10). The officers had blue regimentals faced red. The Abbé Robin in his memoirs reports this dress as having been kept exceptionally neat and clean by the men, whose appearance and drill were excellent.

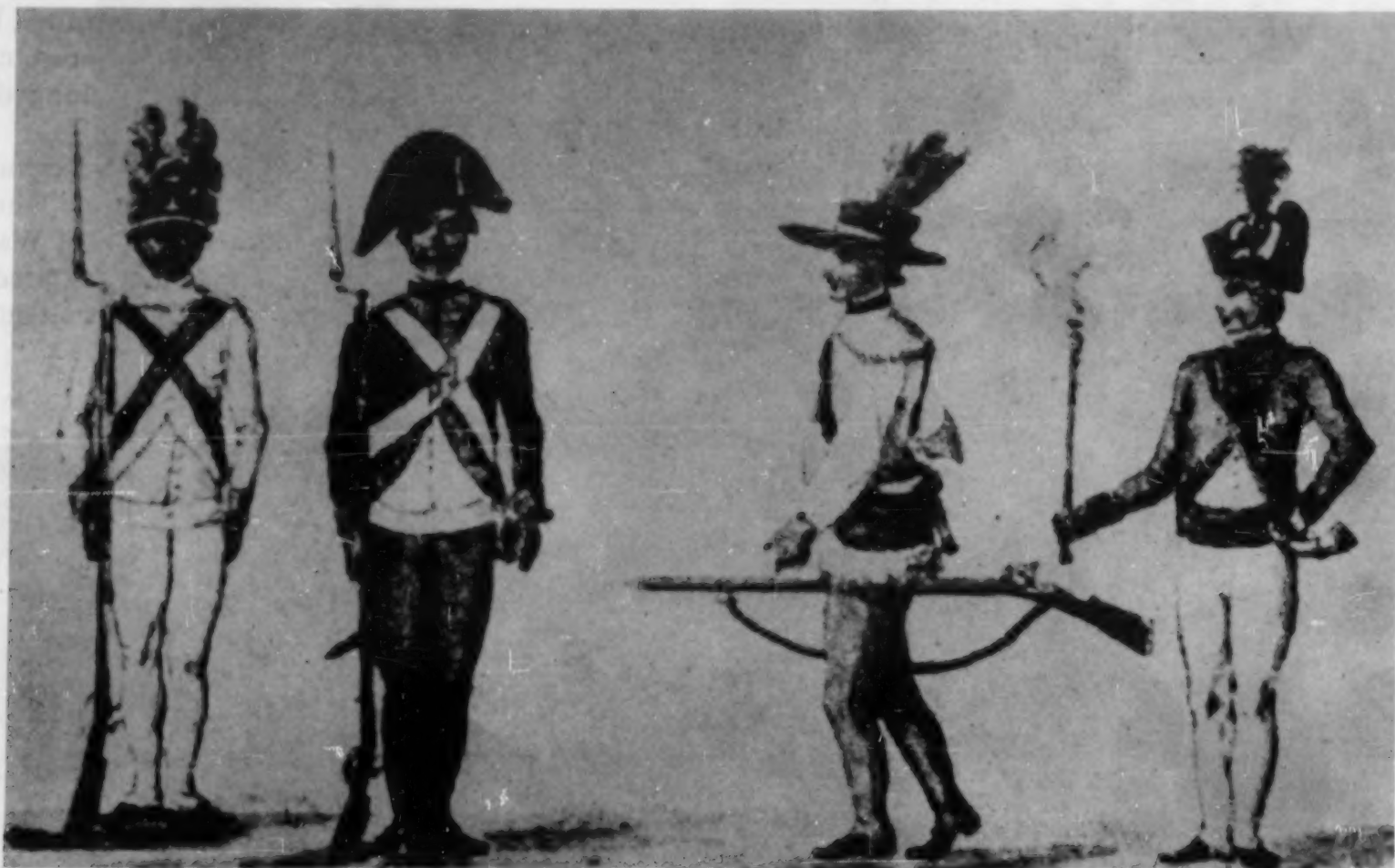
Baron von Clausen, an aide of Rochambeau, drew a picture in his dairy of four Continental uniforms (Plate 11). The figure on the left labelled "Massachusetts" is clearly a Rhode Islander, because of the anchor on the front of his mitre cap. Being dressed in white, he probably belonged to the Second Regiment.

Captain Stephen Olney of the Second Regiment reported that after Trenton the three Rhode Island regiments composed nearly half of Washington's army. Though their enlistment expired at that time, they volunteered to stay on for a bounty



Plate 10. Private, Second Rhode Island Regiment, 1777. The hunting shirt and leggings are white and the belt brown with a red canteen and sling. Drawing by Charles M. Leferts in UNIFORMS OF THE . . . AMERICAN REVOLUTION, courtesy of the New-York Historical Society.

Plate 11. Drawing by Baron von Clausen in the Library of Congress. The figure on the left wears the anchor on his cap of a Rhode Islander and the white of the Second Regiment.



of ten dollars per man. Olney was one of the volunteers who served with Thayer in Fort Mifflin. At Yorktown Captain Olney had the distinction of storming the first redoubt, leading his men over the parapet despite two bayonet wounds in the body and a musket ball in the arm. Rhode Island-like he did not appreciate the way Lafayette wrote him up in despatches and quit the army, thereby losing his pension. However, Lafayette made it up to him later by publicly embracing him on the State House steps when he visited Rhode Island in 1824.

A third Rhode Island regiment passed into the Continental service in September 1776 under Colonel Christopher Lippitt.³ From deserters' descriptions it seems to have been clothed largely in rifle-frocks dyed a purplish hue with overalls and black felt hats. The frock or hunting-shirt was a common dress in the Continental line, being recommended early by Washington as distinctive, cheap, and practical.

The Rhode Island militia served continuously until the British evacuation of Newport. With 400 miles of coastline to guard against constant British raids, it was kept busy. Ably commanded in turn by Generals William Bradford, Joshua Babcock, Joseph Nightingale, and finally Varnum, it constituted no mean force, with three full regiments besides artillery and a host of chartered commands. Colonel William Barton (Plate 12), 2d State Regiment of Infantry, was celebrated throughout the colonies for his daring capture of General Prescott, the British commander of Newport, whom he took in his bed, marched in his nightshirt to the beach, and rowed to the mainland without losing a man of his 40 volunteers.

However celebrated Rhode Island's land forces in the Revolution, she was in fact the cradle of the United States Navy. In the fall of 1775 the Marine Committee voted to fit out four vessels under Commodore Esek Hopkins (Plate 13). The Rhode Islanders showed their joy by sending Captain



Plate 12. Colonel William Barton, Second Rhode Island State Regiment of Infantry. He wears a blue coat lined and faced white with gilt buttons and epaulettes, a black stock, white shirts, red sash, and buff breeches. Portrait in the Rhode Island Historical Society Collections.



Plate 13. Commodore Esak Hopkins. He wears a blue coat faced red with a red waistcoat, a silver gorget, and gilt buttons, epaulette, and hat braid. Mezzotint published by Thomas Hart of London, c. 1776.



Abraham Whipple (Plate 14), who had fired the first gun of the Revolution at sea, to Philadelphia in the sloop *Katy* to join the infant navy. In December Hopkins was named its commander-in-chief, and in February the first squadron sailed from Delaware Bay with John Paul Jones as first lieutenant. Both Hopkins and Whipple wear blue uniforms with red facings.

The fleet sailed to New Providence in the Bahamas where it captured the Governor and 100 cannon, as well as two British frigates and the tender of a third on the way home. The outing would have been perfect had Hopkins not been obliged to put 100 sailors ashore with smallpox on his return to Rhode Island. Thus, when ordered to sea to escape the British invasion, he was unable to man his vessels, and remained bottled up in harbor until the British evacuated Newport.

With the French alliance Congress' credit was restored and Washington at last was able to dress up his army. The new regulations issued in October 1779 read as follows for the New England Line: "Blue coats faced with white, buttons and linings white." All troops wore a white center in their black cockades in honor of France. This uniform has already been illustrated in Plate 9.

On this happy note, we can leave the smallest colony, which fought the enemy on land and sea from Quebec to the Bahamas with perseverance and great gallantry, while supporting a crushing armament and a devastating occupation at home.

FOOTNOTES

¹ Based upon an illustrated lecture given before the Rhode Island Historical Society in 1956.

² The companies chartered in 1774 were the Gloucester Light-Infantry, Kentish Guards, Newport Light-Infantry, North-Providence Rangers, Pawtuxet Rangers, Providence Fusiliers, Providence Grenadier Company, Providence Light-Infantry, Scituate Hunters, and the Providence Train of Artillery. At the time there were at least four other military corps in the colony.

³ This was Babcock's Rhode Island State Regiment. The deserter descriptions are found in Charles M. Lefferts, *Uniforms of the . . . American Revolution*, New York, 1926, 137.

* * *

Plate 14. Captain Abraham Whipple. He wears a blue coat and trousers, red facings and waistcoat, and gold lace, epaulettes, and buttons. Portrait at the U. S. Naval Academy.

A HUMOROUS ACCOUNT OF A MILITIA MUSTER CIRCA 1807

by Colonel Brooke Nihart, USMC

The *Chesapeake-Leopard* affair of June 1807 had the nation seething. Tidewater Virginia particularly was threatened by the continued presence of British ships and their impressment of American ships' crewmen. The Governor of Virginia had called out the organized and uniformed militia of the Norfolk area and had sent units from Richmond and Petersburg to reinforce them. The militia mustered and drilled the country over and the newspapers were filled with military doings. That America kept its sense of humor amid the alarms, however, is noteworthy.

The letter quoted below doubtless is not the first American literary attempt to poke fun at that noble but inefficient Anglo-Saxon institution, the common militia. Neither by many years is it the last, as evidenced in small part by the accompanying engraving dated 1829.

The account, redolent with heavy-handed humor, purports to be factual. Indeed, it probably wasn't far off the mark. The author merely reports what he saw and eschews editorializing. By thus avoiding value judgements as to the militia's efficiency and not identifying the unit, he avoids being "called out" for this is the era of the *code duello*.

As an authentic bit of military Americana the piece rings true. The quaint expressions and archaic, if not illiterate, spelling lend considerable flavor to the whole.

The engraving, reproduced here, and dated some 22 years and one war later shows the militia little changed. There are more muskets and accoutrements as well as a few uniforms, war surplus no doubt. The "good order and discipline" is the same however and one may still discern a few cornstalks at the "shoulder foolk (firelock)" in the rear rank.

Norfolk Gazette and Publick Ledger: Vol. IV. No. 20. Monday Evening, August 31, 1807.

From the Monitor, a Georgia Paper.—

Dear Fugey,

I happened not long since to be present at the muster of a captain's company, in a remote part of one of the counties, and as no general descrip-

tion could convey an adequate idea of the achievements of that day, I must be permitted to go a little into the detail, as well as my recollection will serve me. The men had been notified to meet at nine O'clock, "armed and equipped as the law directs," that is to say, with a gun and cartridge-box at least, but as directed by the law of the United States, "with a good fire-lock, a sufficient bayonet and belt, and pouch with a box to contain not less than twenty-four sufficient cartridges of powder and ball. At 12 about one third, perhaps half the men had collected, and an inspectors return of the number present, and of their arms would have stood nearly thus—*One Captain—one lieutenant—ensign none—serjeants, two—corporals, none—drummers, none—fifers, none—privates present, 25—ditto absent, 30—guns, 15—gun-locks, 12—ramrods, 10—rifle-pouches, 3—bayonets, none—belts, none—spare flints, none—cartridges, none—horse-whips, walking-canes, and umbrellas, twenty-two.* A little before one, the captain, who I shall distinguish by the name of Clodpole, gave directions for forming the line of parade. In obedience to this order, one of the serjeants, the strength of whose lungs had long supplied the place of a drum and fife, placed himself in front of the house and began to bawl with great vehemence, "all captain Clodpoles company to parade there! Come gentlemen, parade here! Parade here!" says he—"and all you that han't guns, fall into the lower end. He might have bawled till this time with as little success as the Syrens sung to Ulysses, had he not changed his post to a neighboring shade; there he was immediately joined by all who were then at leisure; the others were at that time engaged either as parties or spectators, at a game of fives, and could not just then attend, however, in less than half an hour the game was finished and the captain was enabled to form his company, and proceed in the duties of the day.

Look to the right and dress!

They were soon, by the help of the non-commissioned officers, placed in a straight line, but as every man was anxious to see how the rest stood,

those on the wings pressed forward for the purpose, till the whole line assumed nearly the form of a crescent.

Who look at 'em—says the captain, why gentlemen, you are all a crooking here at both *eends* so that you will get on to me by and bye—come gentlemen dress! dress!

This was accordingly done, but impelled by the same motive as before they soon reassumed their former figure, and so they were permitted to remain. Now gentlemen—says the captain—I am going to carry you through the *revolutions* of the manuel exercise, and I want you gentlemen if you please, to pay every particular attention to the word of command, just exactly as I give it out to you. I hope you will have a little patience gentlemen, if you please, and I'll be as short as possible, and if I should be agoing wrong, I will be much obliged to any of you gentlemen to put me right again, for I mean all for the best, and I hope you will excuse me if you please. And one thing gentlemen I must caution you against in particular and that is this—not to make any mistakes if you can possibly help it, and the best way to do this will be to do all the motions right at first, and that will also help us to get along so much faster, and I will try to have it over as soon as possible. Come boys, come to a shoulder.

Poise, foolk!

Cock, foolk! Very handsomely done.

Take aim!

Ram down cartridge! No! No! Fire. I recollect now that firing comes next after taking aim, according to Steuben, but with your permission gentlemen, I'll *read* the words of command just exactly as they are printed in the book, and then I shall sure to be right. "O yes! read it captain, read it, (exclaimed twenty voices at once) that will save time."

"Tention the whole then; please to observe gentlemen that at the word fire! you must fire, that is, if any of your guns are loadn'd you must not shoot in yearnest, but only make pretence like, and all you gentlemen-fellow-soldiers, who's armed with nothing but sticks, riding switches, and corn stalks, need'nt go through the firings, but stand as you are and keep yourselves to yourselves.

Half cock foolk! Very well done.

S, h, u, t, (spelling) *Shet, pan!*

That too would have been very handsomely done, if you hadn't have handled cartridge instead

of shetting pan, but I suppose you was'nt noticing. —Now 'tention one and all gentlemen, and do that motion again.

Shet pan! Very good, very well indeed, you did that motion equal to any old soldiers, you improve astonishingly.

Handle, cartridge! Pretty well considering you done it wrong end foremost, as if you took the cartridge out of your mouth and bit off the twist with the cartridge box.

Draw rammer! Very well again!—But that would have been done I think with greater expertness if you had performed the motion with a little more dexterity.

S, h, o, u, l,—*Shoulder, foolk!* Very handsomely done indeed! Put your guns on the other shoulder gentlemen.

Order, foolk! Not quite so well gentlemen—not quite altogether; but perhaps I did not speak loud enough for you to hear me all at once. Try once more if you please; I hope you will be patient, gentlemen we will soon be through.

Order, foolk! Handsomely done gentlemen! Very handsomely done! and altogether too, except that a few of you were a leetle soon and some others a leetle too late.

In laying down your guns gentlemen, take care to lay the locks up and the other sides down.

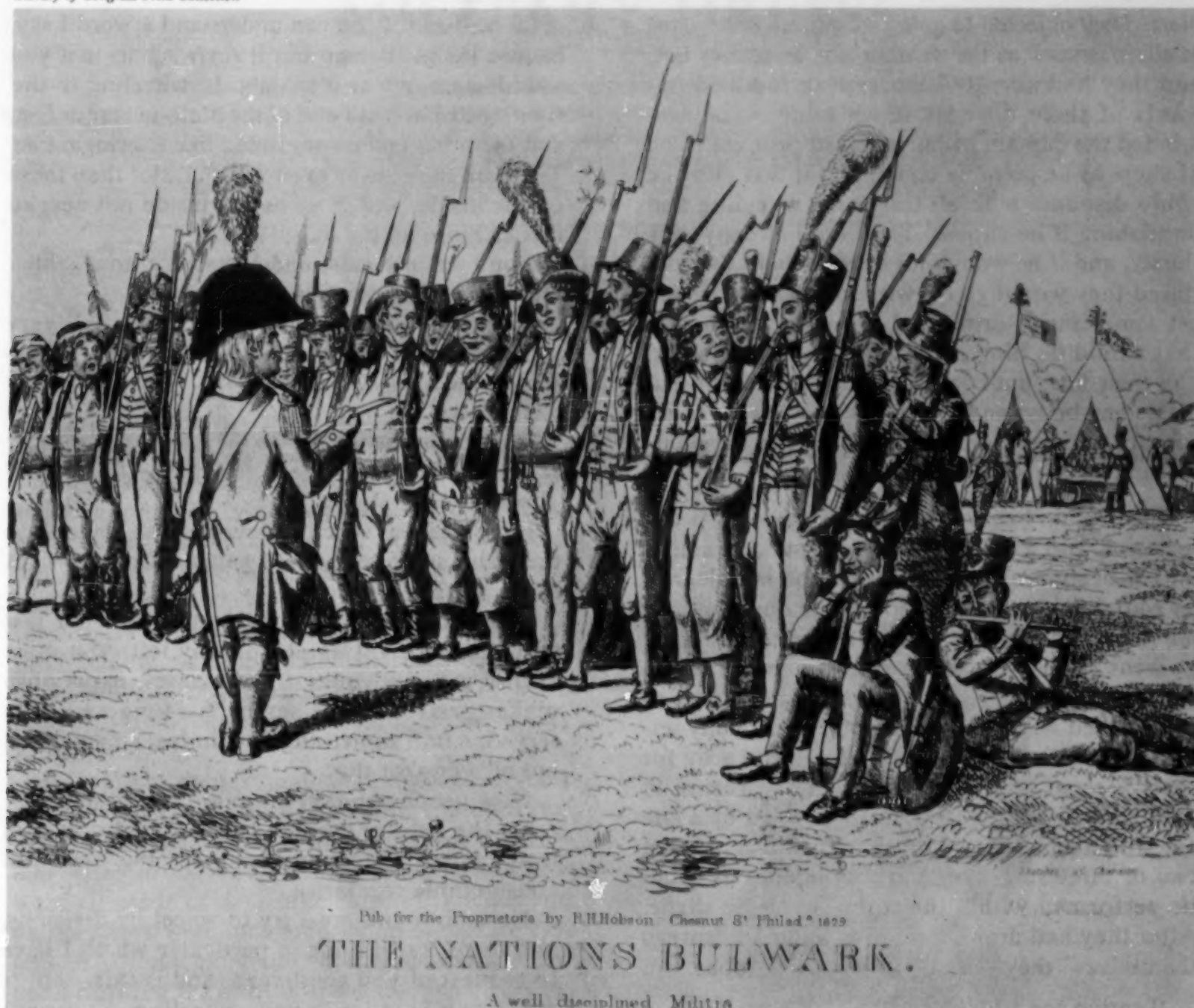
'Tention the whole! *Gound foolk!*—Very well.

Charge, bayonet! (some of the men,)—That can't be right Captain, pray look again, for how can we charge bayonet without our guns?

(Capt.) I dont know as to that, but I know I'm right, for here it is printed in the book; c,h,a,r, yes, charge bayonet, that't right, that's the word if I know how to read; come gentlemen do pray charge bayonet! Charge I say? Why don't you charge? Do you think it an't so? Do you think I have lived to this time o'day and don't know what charge bayonet is? Here, come here, you may see for yourselves; it's as plain as the nose in your fa—stop—stay—no! halt!—no, no! Faith I'm wrong! I'm wrong! I turned over two leaves at once, but I beg your pardon gentlemen, we will not stay out long; and will have something to drink as soon as we have done. Come boys get up of the stumps and logs and take up your guns and we'll soon be done; excuse me if you please.

Fix bayonet!

Advance arms!—Very well done, turn the stocks of your guns in front gentlemen, and that will



got all in sort of a snarl as I may say; how did you get all into such a higglety-pigglety;

The fact was, the shade had moved considerably to the eastward, and had exposed the right wing of these hardy veterans to a galling fire of the sun.—being but poorly provided with umbrellas at this end of the line, they found it convenient to follow the shade, and in huddling to the left for this purpose, they had changed the figure of their line, from that of a crescent to one which more nearly resembled a pair of pot-hooks.

Come gentlemen, (says the capt.) spread yourselves out again into a straight line, and let us get into the wheelings and other matters as soon as possible.

But this was strenuously opposed by the sol-

bring the barrels behind; and hold them straight up and down if you please. Let go with your left hand and take hold with your right just below the guard—Stuben says the gun must be held *p, e, r, perticular*, yes, you must always mind and hold your guns very perticular.—Now boys—'tention the whole!

Present arms! Very handsome done! Only hold your guns over the other knee—the other band up—turn your guns round a little, and raise them up higher—draw the other foot back!—Now you are nearly right; very well done gentlemen; you have improved vastly since I first saw you:—you are getting too *slick*. What a charming thing it is to see men under good discipline. Now gentlemen we come to the *revolutions*; but Lord, men you have

diers. They objected to going into these *revolutions* at all, inasmuch as the weather was extremely hot, and they had already been kept in the field upwards of three quarters of an hour.—They reminded the captain of his repeated promise to be as short as he possibly could, and it was clear he could dispense with all this same wheeling and flourishing if he choose. They were already very thirsty, and if he would not dismiss them they declared they would go off without dismissal and get something to drink, and he might fine them if that would do him any good; they were able to pay their fine, but could not go without drink to please any body; and they swore they would never vote for another captain who wished to be so unreasonably strict.

The captain behaved with great spirit upon this occasion and a smart colloquy ensued, when at length becoming exasperated to the last degree, he roundly asserted that no soldier ought ever *to think hard* of the orders of his officer; and finally he went as far as to say that he did not think any gentleman on that ground had any just cause to be offended with him. The dispute was finally settled by the Captain's sending for some grog for their present accommodation, and agreeing to omit reading the military law as directed by a late act, and also all the military manoeuvres except two or three such easy and simple ones as could be performed within the compass of the shade. After they had drank their grog and had "spread themselves" they were divided into platoons.

'Tention the whole! *To the right, wheel!*
Each man faced to the right about.

Who gentlemen! I didn't mean for every man to stand still and turn nayturally right round; but when I told you to wheel to the right, I intended for you to wheel round to the right as it were. Please to try that again gentlemen; every right hand man must stand fast, and only the others turn round.

In a previous part of the exercise, it had for the purpose of sizing them, been necessary to denominate every second person a "right-hand man." A very natural consequence was, that on the present occasion those right-hand men maintained their position all the intermediate ones faced about as before.

Why look at 'em now! exclaimed the Captain in extreme vexation.

I'll be d--nd if you can understand a word I say. Excuse me gentlemen but it *rayly* seems is if you would not come at it exactly. In wheeling to the right, the right hand end of the platoon stands fast, and the other end comes round like a swingle tree. Those on the outside must march faster than those on the inside, and those on the inside not near so fast as those on the outside.

You certainly must understand me now gentlemen; and now please to try once more.

In this they were a little more successful. Very well gentlemen! Very well indeed! and now gentlemen at the word 'wheel to the left,' you must wheel to the left.

'Tention to the whole! *To the left—left no—right—that is the left—I mean the right—left wheel! march!*

In this he was strictly obeyed; some wheeled to the right, some to the left, and some to the right left or both ways.

Stop! Halt! let us try again! I could not just then tell my right hand from my left; you must excuse me gentlemen if you please—experience makes perfect, as the saying is—long as I have served, I find something new to learn every day, but all's one for that.

Now gentlemen do that motion once more.

By the help of a non-commissioned officer in front of each platoon, they wheeled this time with considerable regularity.

Now boys you must try to wheel by divisions, and there is one thing in particular which I have to request of you gentlemen, and is this—not to make any blunder in your wheeling. You must mind and keep at a wheeling distance; and not talk in the ranks; nor get out to fix again, for I want you to do this motion well, and not make any blunder now.

'Tention the whole! *by divisions! to the right wheel! march!* in doing this it seemed as if bedlam, had broke loose; every man took the command.—Not so fast on the right!—slow now! slow now!—haul down those umbrellas!—faster on the left—keep back! keep back!—stop us Captain, do stop us—go faster there!—I've lost my shoe—get up again Ned—halt!—Halt! halt!—stop gentlemen! stop! stop!

By this time they got into utter and unexplicable confusion, so I left them.

Timothy Crabshaw

MILITARY DRESS¹

¹ Editor's Note: This department, an extension of the former plate section, will present in this and future issues material pertaining to military dress. Reproductions of the new plate series of *MUIA* as well as pertinent extracts from basic source material on American uniforms will be featured. The new editorial policy regarding the reproduction of the *MUIA* plates is outlined in this issue's Gazette.

STATE OF CONNECTICUT UNIFORMS 1856

The prints shown here are taken from *Public Acts Relating to the Militia in force in the State of Connecticut, 1856*, published by the Adjutant General of Connecticut, Hartford, 1856. Seven pages at the end of the book are devoted to the "Uniform for the Militia" of the State, and following these are three folding plates, partially colored, which show uniforms and accouterments in detail. There is a copy of this book in the U.S. Military Academy Library.

A glance at the text and cuts is enough to show how closely the style and detail of the uniforms prescribed resemble those authorized for the Regular Army in 1851. Frock coats, trousers, and caps were all made of dark blue cloth. Branches and assignments were indicated by an elaborate system of colored pompons, mounted above a gilt plate showing the arms of the state.

In the decade between 1851 and 1861 most of the states adopted dress regulations along these same lines. Although the dark blue frock coat was certainly not accepted by all their regiments, there must have been an unusual homogeneity within the Volunteer Militia as a whole, a homogeneity not evident since the early years of the century.

Frederick P. Todd



COLONEL—INFANTRY.



INFANTRY —

CAPTAIN



MUSICIAN



PRIVATE



DRAGOONS.



ARTILLERY.



INFANTRY.



RIFLEMEN.

OFFICIAL DRAWINGS FOR THE U.S. ARMY UNIFORM REGULATIONS OF 1851

An important pictorial source of information on American military dress exists in the detailed drawings that supplement both official and semi-official illustrated uniform regulations that have appeared from time to time for each of the services.

These drawings are generally reliable as contemporary representations of details that might become subject to misinterpretation without graphic aids.

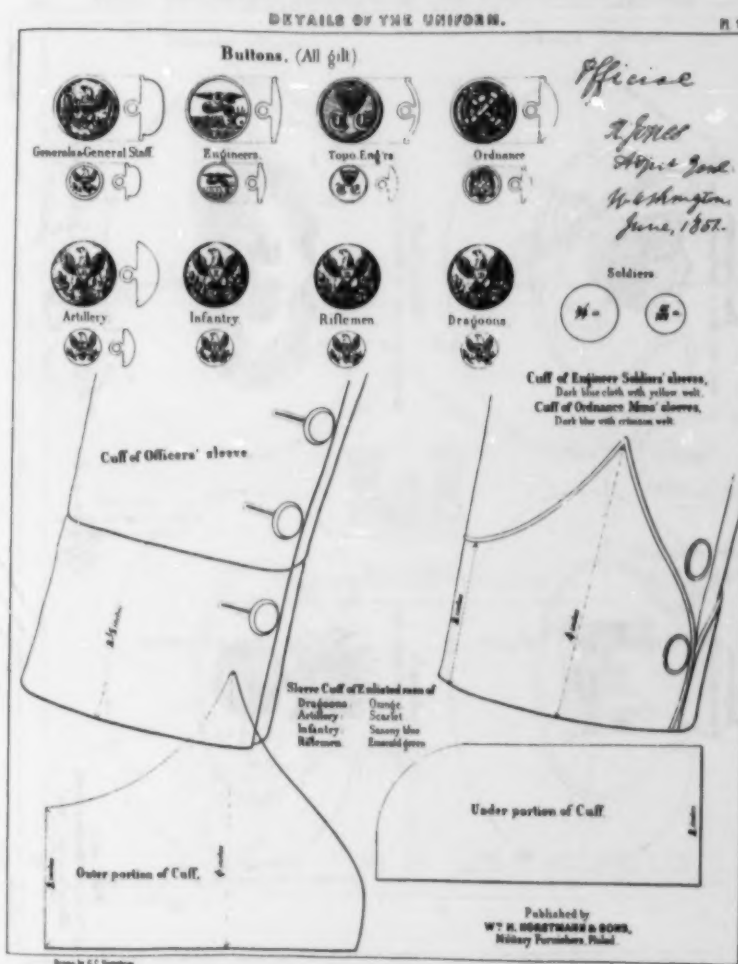
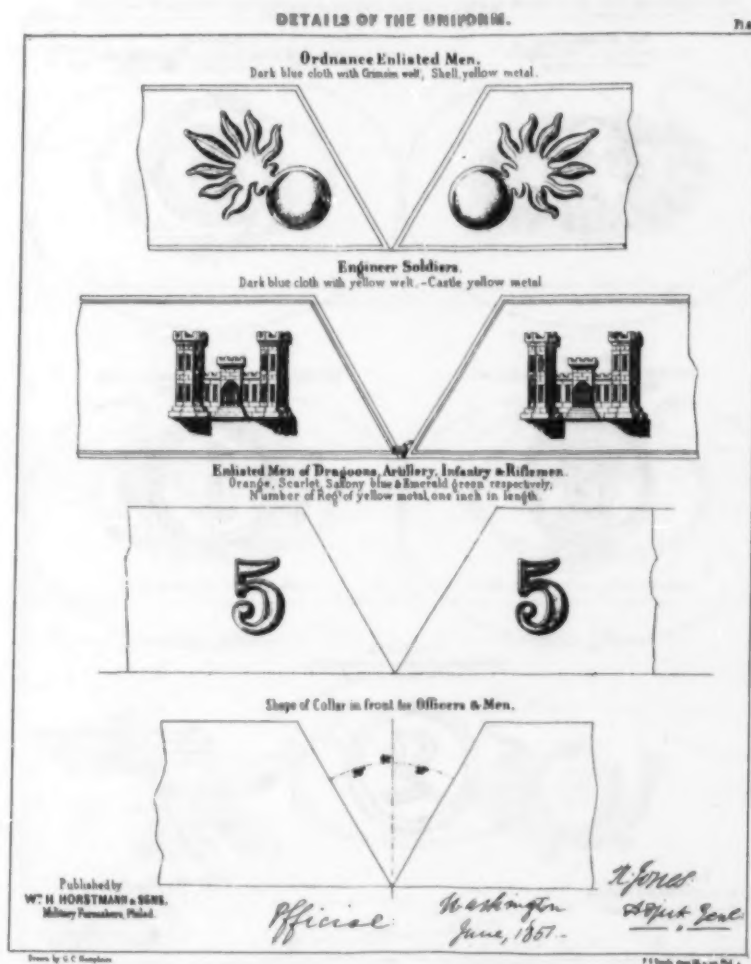
Unfortunately such illustrations are usually a portion of either rare or hard to get publications. The following selections are no exception, and are excerpted from William H. Horstmann & Sons' 3rd edition of *Regulations for the Uniform & Dress of the Army of the United States, June, 1851*, Philadelphia, 1851.

The material for the Horstmann publication was obtained "from the original text and drawings in the War Department," and is comprised of seven pages of written regulations, five pages of uniform plates, which were lithographed in full color, and twenty plates of details pertaining to the uniform.

It is this latter group that has been selected for publication in the thought that the text may be obtained from other sources and THE COMPANY has illustrated many of the uniforms with more precise detail as to arms and accoutrements than can be found in the five official plates.

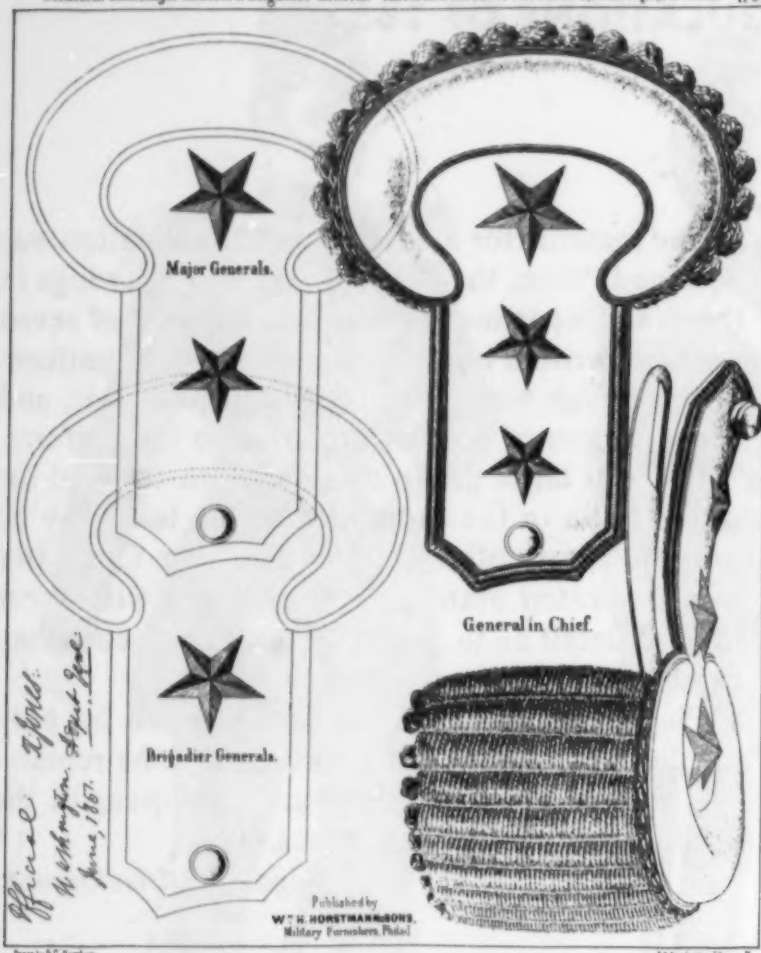
Plates 6 through 15 have been selected for publication in this issue and subsequently the remaining plates of this group are to appear in the section entitled Military Dress.

Edgar A. Wischnowski



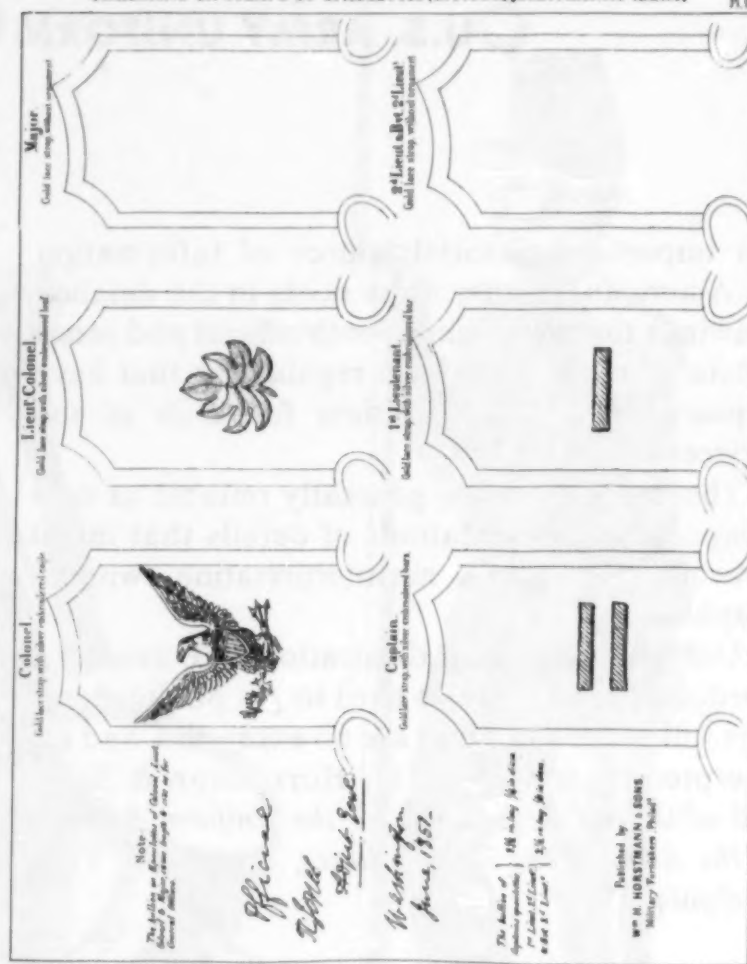
EPAULETTES.

General in Chief, Major General & Brigadier General. Gold with Silver embroidered Stars. Bullion 3/4 inch long & 1/4 inch in diam. P. 8



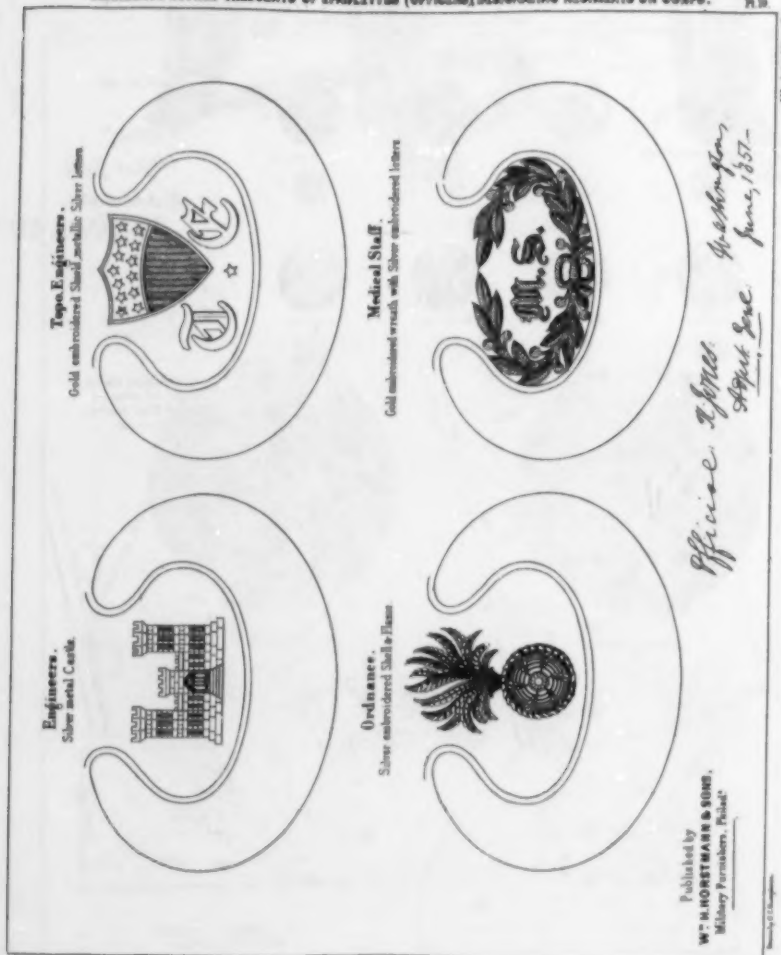
ORNAMENTS ON STRAPS OF EPAULETTES (OFFICERS) INDICATING RANK.

P. 9



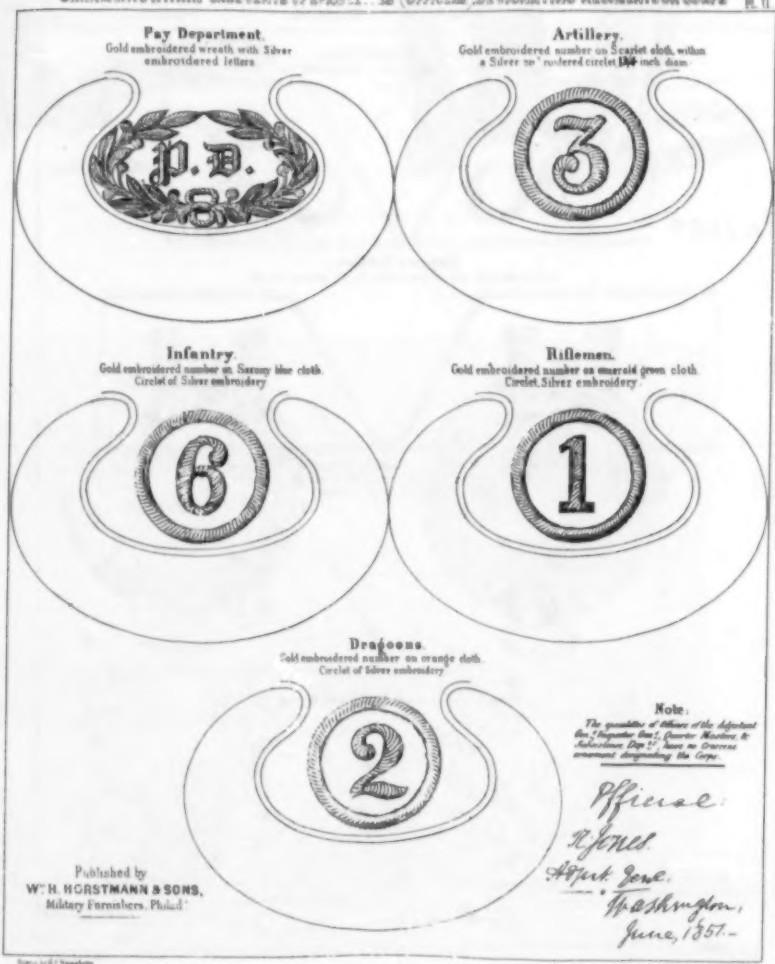
ORNAMENTS WITHIN CRESCENTS OF EPAULETTES (OFFICERS) DESIGNATING REGIMENTS OR CORPS.

P. 10

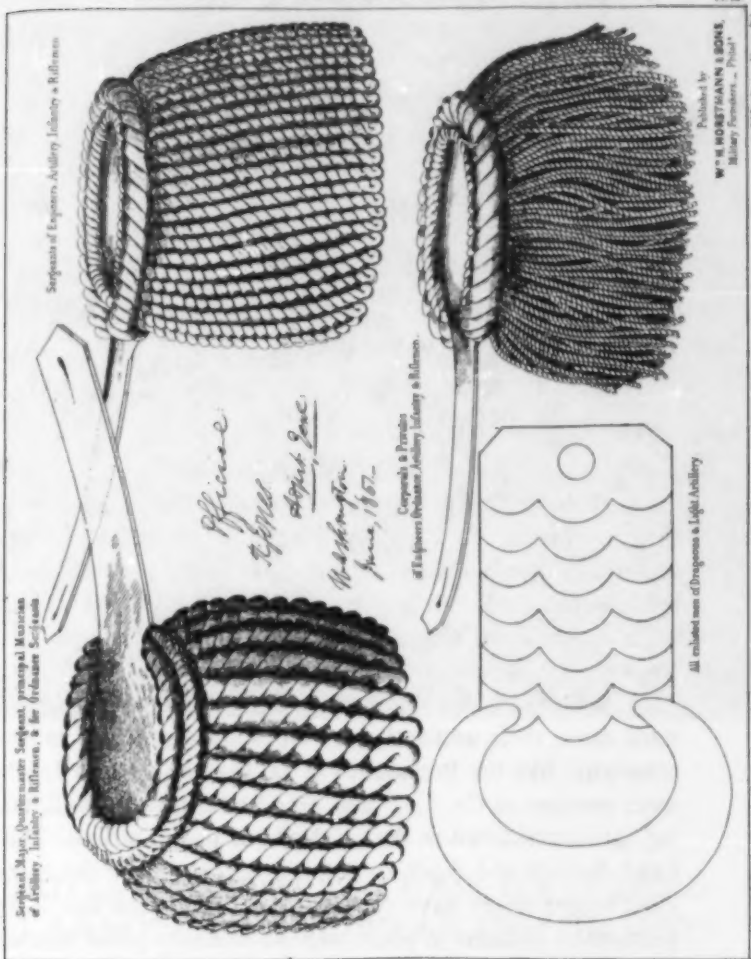


ORNAMENTS WITHIN CRESCENTS OF EPAULETTES (OFFICERS) DESIGNATING REGIMENTS OR CORPS.

P. 11



EPAULETTES & SHOULDER KNOTS OF ENLISTED MEN.



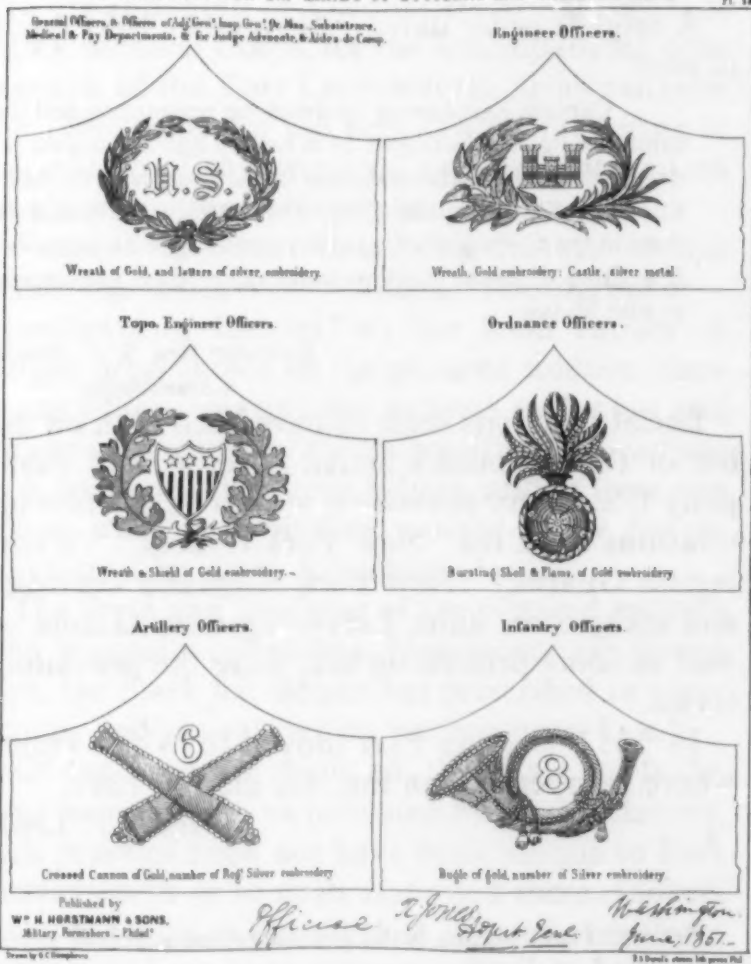
CAP FOR OFFICERS & ENLISTED MEN.

P. 12.



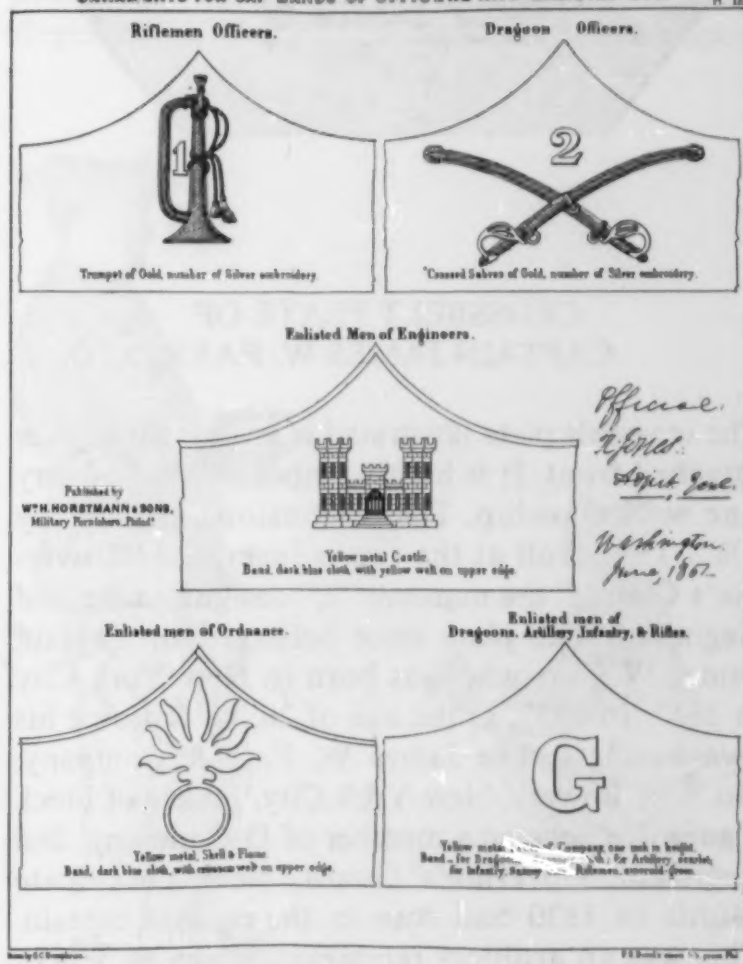
ORNAMENTS FOR CAP BANDS OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN.

P. 13.



ORNAMENTS FOR CAP BANDS OF OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN.

P. 14.



COLLECTOR'S FIELDBOOK



CROSSBELT PLATE OF
CAPTAIN JAMES W. FARR

The crossbelt plate illustrated is brass with a silver attached front. It is highly embossed and of very fine workmanship. The dimensions are $3\frac{3}{8}$ " by $2\frac{3}{8}$ ". The scroll at the top is inscribed "Governor's Guard," the numeral "2," designates the 2nd Regiment. The plate once belonged to Captain James W. Farr who was born in New York City in 1812. In 1832, at the age of 20, he founded his own business, The James W. Farr & Company, No. 65½ Bowery, New York City, maker of block planes. He became a member of D Company, 2nd Regiment, Governor's Guard, New York State Militia in 1830 and rose to the rank of captain. This was an artillery regiment. Many papers in

my possession indicate that Captain Farr was well respected, not only by his friends and neighbors, but by the men of his regiment.

A rather interesting news clipping (undated) of the period reads in part as follows:

Arrival of the Harrisburgh Riflemen

On Wednesday afternoon Company "D," Governor's Guard, mustered at Military Hall, Bowery, and proceeded under command of Capt. James Farr to the foot of Courtland Street. Soon after 3 o'clock the visitors arrived and were received by Company "D" with the usual military courtesy, the movements of which were well executed.

... The Harrisburgh Riflemen are nearly all fine, well-sized men; their uniform, grey frock coat, cap and plume, somewhat like the President's G'D; they numbered 33, the same number as Co. "D," and marched extremely well, taking into consideration the state of our paved streets. Their band did not add much to the martial display of the corps. That bugler might have substituted a cap for the hat. If the gentleman alluded to possessed no military pride himself, he could have respected the corps that paid him for his valuable services.

A brigade order dated 7 November 1851 reads in part:

... Captain Farr having tendered his resignation and the same having been accepted he is hereby and at his own request honorably discharged from further service in the Militia of this State. Captain Farr has faithfully performed his duty in the Governor's Guard for upwards of 21 years and is entitled to all the privileges and exemptions guaranteed to him by law.

*Brigadier Gen. G. P. Morris,
Commanding*

Social functions seem to have been high on the list of the regiment's activities, especially Company D's. In my possession are very elaborate invitations from the "New York Cadets," "Washington Guards," "New York Highland Guards," and many other units. Lacey-edged invitations, as well as some printed on silk, were the prevailing styles.

In 1857 Captain Farr moved to White Plains where he operated an inn. He died in 1861.

Waverly P. Lewis

¹Source of information is the genealogy and personal papers of Captain J. W. Farr.



CIVILIAN PATTERN STRAW HATS USED AS ARMY FATIGUE WEAR IN THE 1880's

We are indebted to Colonel H. S. Parker, U.S. Army Medical Corps, for the accompanying photograph of the Fort Leavenworth firing range in the 1880's, and for the very skillful rendering in ink of two of the principal figures captured on emulsion by the photographer.

Perhaps the most interesting feature of this print, the work of "Whitaker Photographer—Leavenworth, Kansas," is the wide variety of fatigue dress shown on the pictured soldiers. Here is one officer wearing the undress sack coat and forage cap, several officers wearing the undress sack coat and white cork helmet, and at least one officer wearing a civilian pattern straw hat as sanctioned by *Army Regulations*.¹

The dress and headgear of the pictured enlisted men is equally interesting. In evidence are forage caps, the black felt fatigue hat prescribed in regulations, and several civilian pattern straw hats.²

Of the headgear depicted, the straw hat is the most unusual; but, as indicated by the regulations, such practice need not have been unique to Fort Leavenworth or to units stationed there. Indeed, use of the civilian straw hat as an item of uniform appears to have been widespread not only in the

Army, but in the Navy and Marine Corps for many years prior to its sanction in general regulations of the Army. This approval appears to have been first written into the 1881 edition of *Army Regulations*, after the practice was looked upon



with favor by the Lieutenant General Commanding the Army.³

How these general regulations were implemented at Fort Leavenworth is nicely illustrated by the following extract from post orders, furnished by Colonel Parker:

POST OF FORT LEAVENWORTH, KANSAS,
June 5, 1884

ORDERS,
No. 134

(Extract)

II. The Board of Officers, called on the 16th ult. to select, fix upon, and report, a pattern of cheap summer hat suitable to be worn by enlisted men on fatigue, having selected and recommended the pattern worn last year, the recommendation is approved. The hat can be procured for twenty cents of the post trader, who has a supply on hand. Commanding officers of companies will see that their men are provided with them.

The members of the post guard, when in undress uniform, will wear the summer helmet upon bright or sunny days—changing to the cap at retreat.

BY ORDER OF COLONEL E. S. OTIS:

H. A. GREENE,
2nd Lieutenant 20th Infantry,
Acting Post Adjutant

OFFICIAL:

(sgnd) H. A. Greene
2nd Lieutenant 20th Infantry,
Acting Post Adjutant

While we cannot date precisely Whitaker's photograph it is clearly of the period of the order; taken together the two items tell a very nice story of everyday soldier dress three-quarters of a century ago.

Colonel H. S. Parker, U.S.A.
Rowland P. Gill

¹ Para. 2635 and 2777, *Army Regulations of 1881*.

² Para. 2764, 2776, and 2777, *Army Regulations of 1881*.

³ Para. 2635 and 2777, *Army Regulations of 1881*; and the comments of the Lieutenant General Commanding the Army in W.D., G.O. 76, 1879.

AIR FORCE LONGEVITY RIBBON

Lieutenant Charles C. Charles of comic-strip fame to the contrary, swagger sticks for Air Force officers are not considered a uniform item. But perhaps like back-straps on the service hat and Wellington boots they will grow in favor and become almost uniform. The uniform manual does not list swagger sticks, but neither does it list straps or

boots. So through omission rather than prohibition, they may become more common.

This will be an interesting trend to watch—the gradual “prettying-up” of what was originally intended as a very plain, serviceable, and strictly utilitarian uniform. Especially as the Air Force has just authorized a Longevity Service Ribbon to be worn by officers and airmen in place of the “hash marks” formerly only worn by airmen. The ribbon is of Air Force blue with turquoise bands to those completing four years service, bronze oak leaf clusters for additional four year years, and a silver oak leaf cluster in lieu of five bronze ones.

This ribbon will be similar in purpose to the Canadian Forces Decoration worn by all military and naval personnel for twelve years honorable service.

1st Lt. William F. Graves, USAF



PERCUSSION CAP BOX—REBEL

This cap box not only has every classic feature of Confederate manufacture but enjoys the further distinction of bearing a southern makers stamp on its cover. The maker, G. N. Wyman & Co., Augusta, Ga., also is known to have delivered 7 pikes to the State of Georgia on April 9, 1862.

William A. Albaugh, III

GAZETTE

THE PLATES

The format of this issue looks a little bit different than those we have published in the past. Most members will undoubtedly miss the title, "The Plates," that covered the section of reproductions and plate descriptions of the *Military Uniforms in America* series. Let us set your mind at ease by pointing out that it is still our policy to run these reproductions and the descriptions in the *MC&H*. The Governors, however, have responded to the request of the editors of both COMPANY publications that the journal and the plates not have their publishing schedule tied so firmly together. The *MC&H* has been late quite often in the past, a good part of the difficulty being the necessity of waiting until four plates have been assembled and reproduced, not to mention the descriptions to accompany those plates.

In the future the plates which are published as a result of the efforts of Colonel Todd's committee will be reproduced in the *MC&H* as they are ready and space allows. The journal will definitely not be held up to wait on the plates. Within the publishing year we expect to run all 16 plates and descriptions of the *MUIA* series, but the number in each issue might range from none to double the usual four. This move is made as a result of rising costs, our obligations to turn out a journal reasonably on schedule, and a natural desire to produce the best work possible in the limited time we have available away from our livelihoods and families. The change was made after considerable thought and discussion by those most closely connected with THE COMPANY's publications and we hope that the necessity for it will be understood.

FELLOWS OF THE COMPANY

The publication of the citations of the Fellows of THE COMPANY designated by the Governors at their November meeting was left unfinished in the winter issue of the journal. The original five Fellows, who sitting as a committee choose new Members to be so honored, have now been pre-

sented with similar citations by the President in the name of the Governors. The citations of these "hallmark" Fellows, whose accomplishments are outstanding even in such a distinguished list, follow:

Anne S. K. Brown: A Founder, Charter Member, Governor and Treasurer of THE COMPANY. Because she has assembled the largest and most distinguished collection of books and prints on military dress and devices in the world. Because she has conducted her collecting with high regard for scholarship and has freely made her findings available to others. For her generous encouragement to others. And because she has assured that the priceless treasures collected will, in time, be rendered easily accessible to American students.

Colonel Harry C. Larter, Jr.: U. S. Army (Ret.). A Founder, Charter Member, Governor and President of THE COMPANY. For his dedicated and selfless devotion to the study of American military antiquities over a period of many years. Graduate of West Point, professional Artilleryman, recognized authority on the horse, official military historian, and advisor to the Fort Ticonderoga Museum, he has consistently placed his vast knowledge at the disposal of all who desired. For the fact that this help was always accurate, stimulating, detailed, and freely given. And, finally, for his leadership in developing the Artillery Museum at Fort Sill.

H. Charles McBarron, Jr.: Professional artist. A Founder, Charter Member, Governor and Consulting Editor of THE COMPANY. Because there is blended in him, more completely than in any other American, the attributes of military artist and military historian. Because he has assembled a distinguished collection of books, notes, pictures, uniforms, and accouterments related to early American military dress. For the superb work he has done in the military field for the "U. S. Army in Action" series and for Marine Corps productions. And because he has generously contributed over the past ten years more original drawings to COMPANY publications than all other contributors combined.

Harold L. Peterson: A Founder, Charter Member, Governor and Editor of THE COMPANY. For his unique preeminence in the field of early American arms and armor. For his outstanding scholarship displayed in the development of the National Park Service museum program. For his lasting contribution to THE COMPANY in launching its journal. For the great amount of time, effort, and expense which he has donated to assisting other students with their research problems. For his own discriminating collection. And for his books: *The American Sword* (1954), *American Silver Mounted Swords* (1956), and *Arms and Armor in Colonial America* (1956).

Frederick P. Todd: Colonel USAR. Charter Member, first President, Editor-in-Chief, Governor. For his tremendous contributions to American military history, equalled by few, surpassed by none; his unrivalled store of personal knowledge on lineage and dress of America's military forces; his contributions to unit lineage and tradition, and therefore to the Army's pride and morale, while in the Office of the Chief of Military History, especially on the infantry lineage book; his work with the "U. S. Army in Action" series; his reference library, possibly unique in the United States, on military history and dress; his brilliant work in transforming the West Point Museum into a living testimonial to our Nation's proud military record; his farsightedness, generosity, and utter selflessness in COMPANY matters. For his reputation as the dean of scholars in our field.

INCREASE IN FEES

The Board of Governors has announced increases in COMPANY dues and subscription fees made necessary by steadily increasing mailing, administrative, supply, and production costs. In 1958 fees are as follows:

Annual Member's dues (to include free subscription to <i>MC&H</i>).....	\$6.00
Annual Member's subscription to <i>MUIA</i> plate series.....	\$16.00

Thus, in 1958 a person taking the *MC&H* only will pay \$6.00, and a person subscribing to the plates will pay \$22.00 (\$6.00 dues, plus \$16.00 for plate subscription).



Col. Joseph J. Johnston, USAR, Ret.
Pebble Beach, California

Victor H. Enkevort
San Antonio, Texas

George Angus Douglass
New York City

"HISTORY IN MINIATURE"

Several Members of THE COMPANY whose interests lie in the miniature field were recently contributors to an exhibition, "History in Miniature," which was held at the New Jersey State Museum at Trenton from January through June of this year. The individual pieces and dioramas showed personages and events in the history of Britain, France, and America, the development of military uniforms in Europe and America, and the highlights of the art of collecting, making, converting, and painting miniature figures. The exhibition furnished vivid proof that American artists in this field can produce figures fully as good or better than the finest makers in Europe. Members exhibiting figures included: Jose Alvarez; Bill Harle; Helen Stevenson West; John Wirth; George Berlet; Ashton McDonnell; Kemble Widmer; and Bill Imrie.

KEEPING TRADITION ALIVE

When military units of different services or of allied countries serve together it has long been a custom to commemorate the association with an exchange of symbolic mementoes. Usually the exchange is between officers' or NCOs' messes and often consists of the units' insignia mounted on a plaque or framed. Alternatively, sometimes an old print depicting the unit or, in the case of musical organizations, a drum is presented. An engraved plate is attached giving details of the occasion to complete the gift.

From the 64th Air Division (Defense), Pepperrell Air Force Base, St. Johns, Newfoundland, comes a reminder that the Air Force is quite aware



U.S.A.F. Photograph

of the value of military tradition in promoting allied unity and harmony. Mementoes in the form of the 64th's insignie were presented to the officers' messes of the several neighboring Canadian units at a formal military reception 15 December 1957 at the Pepperrell Officers' Mess. Also honored in a like manner was the Governor of Newfoundland, Sir Leonard Outerbridge, Kt., CBE, DSO who is also Honorary Colonel of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment. This ceremony is shown above.

Shown in the accompanying photograph are Squadron Leaders H. E. Bodien, DSO, and B. F. Herbert, CD, representing RCAF 410 and 428 Squadrons respectively which have been closely associated with the 64th on air defense maneuvers, presenting their Squadrons' insignia to the 64th's commander, Colonel Carroll W. McColpin, USAF.

1st Lt. William F. Graves, USAF

★ ★ ★

In *MC&H*, V, 104, Colonel Harry C. Larter, Jr. told in word and drawing of a tradition in the "old army." An officer commanding one of our units in Germany reading of this wrote to the author about a modern version of this tradition as conducted by the modern descendent of the regiment involved. Colonel Harry has passed it along and we feel that editing would destroy its flavor so it is included here in full.



U.S.A.F. Photograph

HEADQUARTERS
SEVENTH UNITED STATES ARMY
APO 46 US ARMY

27 December 1956

Dear Sir:

Recently I read your article, "A of the Tenth Bucks for Orderly," in the December 1953 issue of the *Military Collector and Historian*. I was particularly interested in the article because during the period 1 April 1955 to 1 August 1956 I commanded the 510th Tank Battalion (the new designation of the 10th Cavalry).

When I became Battalion Commander of the 510th I instituted the position of "Enlisted Aide to the Battalion Commander." This position was established to give recognition to enlisted men for attention to duty and exemplary soldierly qualities. Selection of men for this duty was to be based upon their knowledge of guard orders, soldierly bearing, familiarity with individual weapon, general military knowledge and personal appearance.

The selection of Aide was made each day at Guard Mount by the Officer of the Day from among those enlisted men detailed as Privates of the Guard. At the completion of his inspection of the Guard, the Officer of the Day announces his selection to the Guard and asks if anyone desires to challenge the individual selected. Any Private of the Guard may challenge the Officer of the Day's selection. The Officer of the Day then must reconsider his selection in light of the challenge, i.e. he reinspects and requests. This procedure is followed to insure that each enlisted man has an equal opportunity to compete for the position of Enlisted Aide.

The enlisted man selected as Aide spends the following day with the Battalion Commander. The Aide is dressed in class "A" uniform, laced boots (with trousers bloused), branch (yellow) scarf, and a distinguishing arm brassard. The Aide is granted a twenty four (24) hour pass by his Company Commander the day following his tour of duty and is placed upon the Enlisted Aide Roll. Those men who are selected consistently are in turn sent to Frankfurt for a one week assignment as Enlisted Aide to the Group Commander (4th Armor Group, formerly 4th Cavalry).

A recent innovation in this program has occurred. On Organization Day 1956, the 90th Anniversary of the Tenth Cavalry, a Battalion Trophy Room was opened. (This room contains trophies, pictures, battle flags, etc. which belonged to the Tenth Cavalry.) The Enlisted Aide is now on duty in the Trophy Room each afternoon. The Aide is expected to conduct visitors on tours of the room, act as guard, and maintain the Trophy Room.

Needless to say, the position of Enlisted Aide has created much keen competition within the battalion. It is a position desired by all but not easily attained. As you noted in your article, the entire company works on one individual to assure that the company wins the honor. In each company the non-commissioned officers conduct pre-Guard mount inspections to assure themselves that the company men are well prepared. I earnestly believe that this program has done a great deal to enhance the morale and esprit of the battalion. Through this process I was able to meet and talk to many fine, young men and to get not otherwise available views of battalion activities.

I hope I have not been presumptuous in writing to you but did think you would be interested in the modern version of "bucking for orderly."

Yours truly,

M. J. L. Greene, Lt. Col., GS
Secretary of the General Staff

★ ★ ★

Traditionally "old soldiers" upon their retirement receive as a final tribute a review in their honor. The Air Force, youngest and least tradition-minded of the services, proved last 29 July that it too has its traditions. The occasion was the retirement of Air Force Chief of Staff General Nathan F. Twining who stepped down to accept chairmanship of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on 16 August.

General Twining really reviewed two parades; first a parade of 1,400 Airmen at Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland, then the traditional "fly-by"

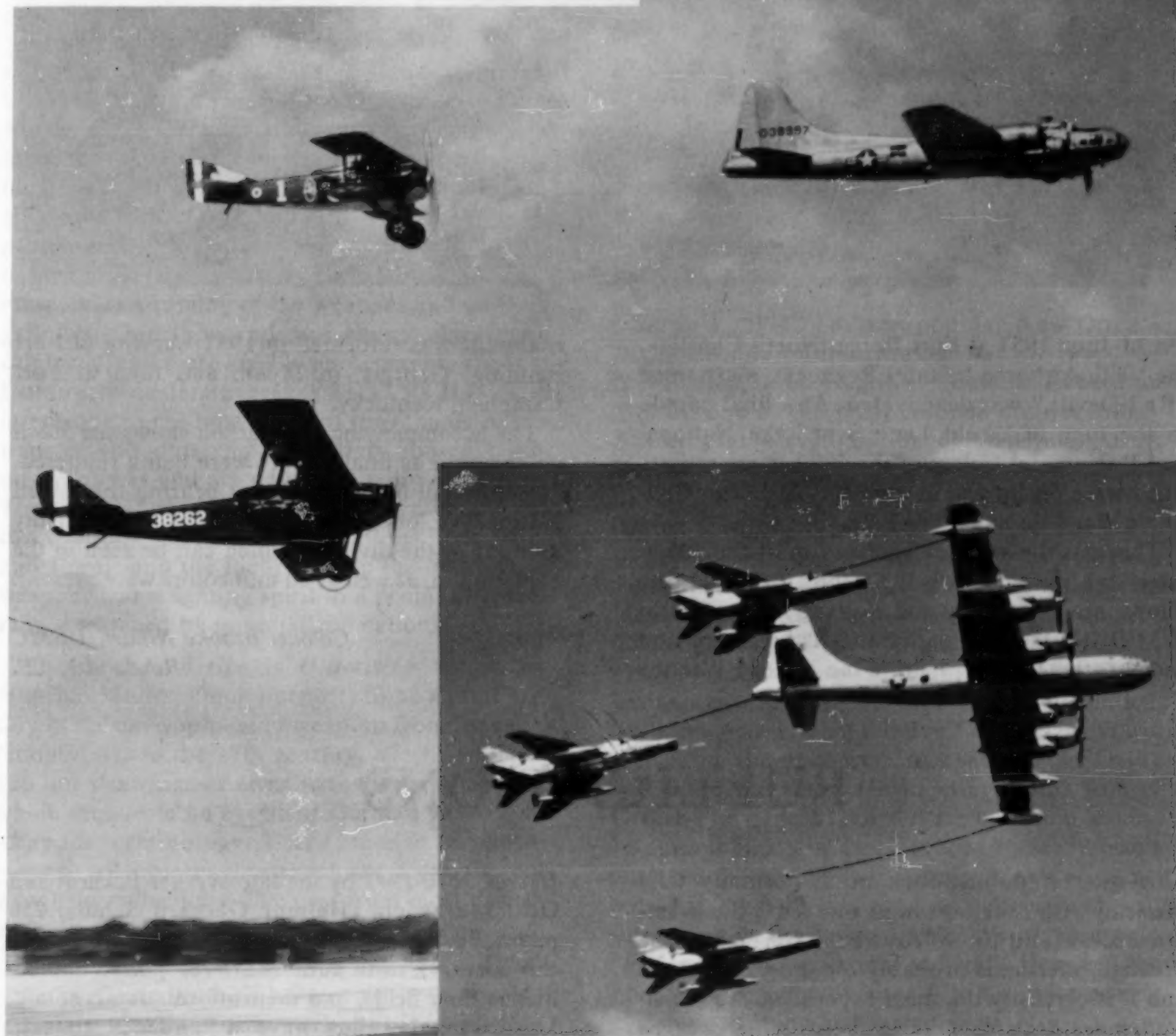


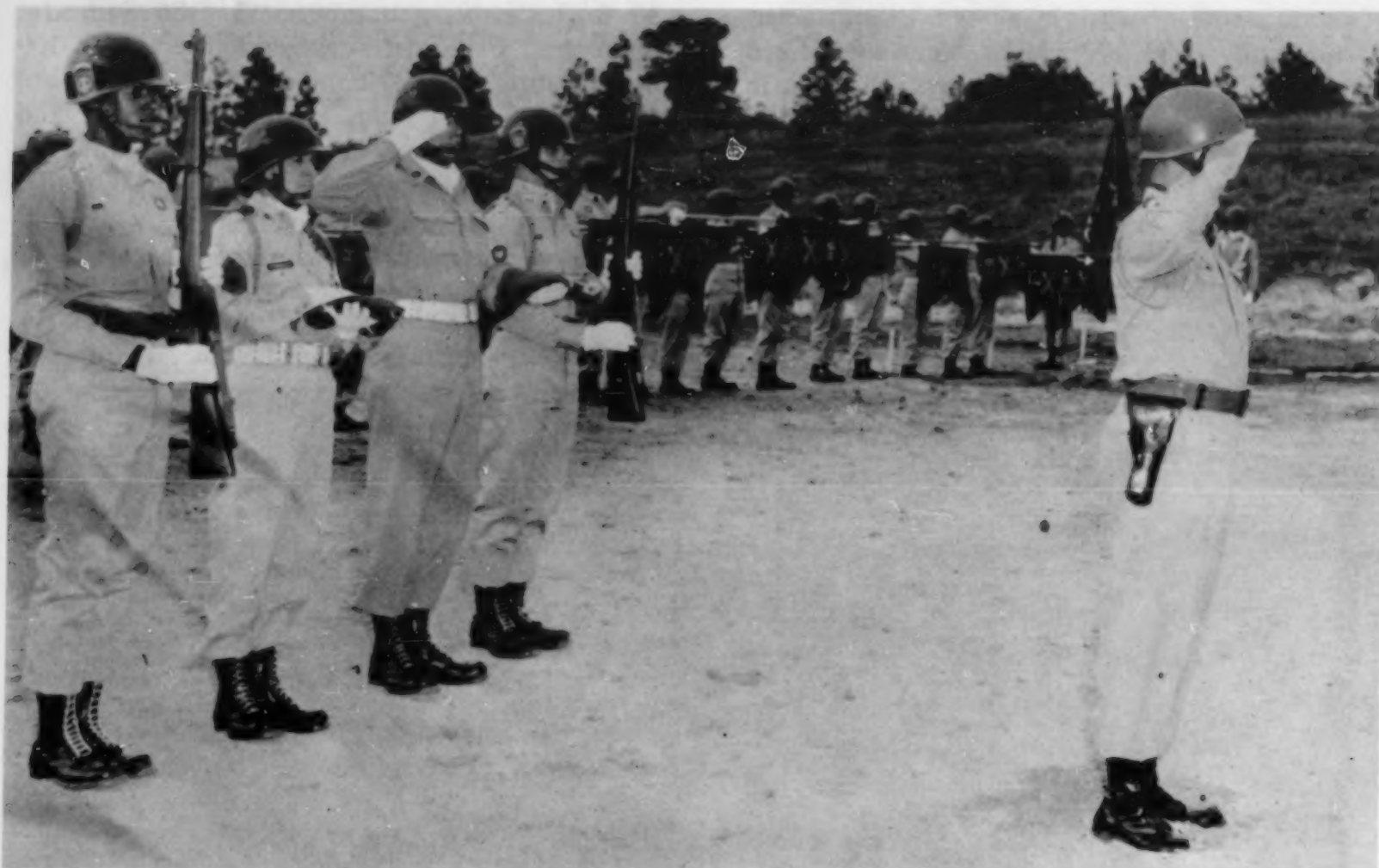
of aircraft. This latter was by all odds a spectacular. Participating were 272 planes. Leading were a World War I SPAD and a "Jenny," the type in which Twining learned to fly. Then came a B-17 bomber like the one he flew in the South Pacific in World War II. After a tribute to the past came the modern Air Force, jets rendezvousing from bases in every corner of the country—3 F-100 fighters refueling in mid-air from a KB-50 tanker,

30 B-57 Canberra bombers, 52 F-86 Sabre-Jet fighters, 21 F-102 delta-winged fighters, 24 F-100 Super-Sabres, 96 B-47 bombers, 27 B-52 bombers, a B-52 refueling from a KC-135 tanker, and others. Shown in accompanying photographs are the Air Force color guard and some of the planes taking part.

Colonel Brooke Nihart, USMC
Rowland P. Gill

Composite photograph of historic planes participating in the review. Inserted is a view of the modern refueling demonstration. U.S. Air Force photograph.





U.S. Army Photograph

On 11 June 1957 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, the 508th Airborne Infantry Regiment, nicknamed "Red Devils," was deactivated. At a final parade to the tune of "Auld Lang Syne" the National and Regimental Colors of the 508th were retired. They were put to rest in the 82nd Airborne Division's War Museum at Fort Bragg.

This was the second deactivation of the 508th. After taking part with the 82nd in the historic jumps into Normandy and Holland during World War II it was deactivated and its colors retired shortly after the war. During the Korean War the

regiment was reformed in 1951, serving at Fort Benning, Georgia, in Japan, and then at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

The accompanying photograph shows the 508th color guard as final honors were being rendered. Note that all but the sergeant bearing the folded National Colors are at present arms. All company guidons of the division, which can be seen in the background, as well as all unit colors were present.

Colonel Brooke Nihart, USMC
Rowland P. Gill

PUBLICATIONS

This quarter publications from Germany take the lead with four offerings, one from the Western Sector, and three from East Germany. The Western offering is probably the most important, and it is certainly the most expensive: *Die Handwaffen des Brandenburgisch-Preussisch-Deutschen*

Heeres, 1640-1945 by the late Werner Eckardt and Otto Morawietz (Helmut Gerhard Schulz, 256 pages, 36 DM—about \$10 from most dealers in this country). Both authors are recognized authorities in their fields, and their information is sound. Unfortunately, they have a tendency to skip

quickly over some of the details in the earlier arms which are of considerable interest to collectors, but later arms are well covered with much information gained from practical experience in both World Wars I and II.

Featured are some excellent plates by Herbert Rothgaengel and Klaus-Dieter Schach showing typical soldiers of the various eras with all of their arms, equipment and uniforms. The drawings of the arms themselves, however, are not of such high quality, and one could wish either for clearer, more detailed drawings or for photographs. Despite these minor drawbacks, *Die Handwaffen* is a most welcome addition to the literature of arms, covering as it does all forms of hand weapons, both firearms and edged weapons, used by one of the most important military powers in Europe.

From Communist East Germany come a trio of offerings, all published by the Ministry for National Defense and all prepared by the staff of the Museum for German History which is the new name for the rebuilt Zeughaus. All are attractively illustrated and produced. They are most inexpensive, and all are heavily laden with Communist propaganda. The first of these, *Waffen und Uniformen in der Geschichte* by the entire staff of the museum, is a catalog of the weapons and uniform galleries. One thousand and eighty objects are cataloged, and there are 124 photographs. The cost from most dealers averages \$3-\$3.50. It is most interesting to see how much of the famous collections of this outstanding military museum survived the war and are now once more on display. The information is accurate and informative if one can overlook the constant quotations from Marx and Engels and the theorizing on the meaning of weapons and a fighting spirit to a people's democracy threatened by imperialistic nations.

The second offering is *Historische Waffen* by Henrich Müller which purports to be a brief history of the development of weapons from the early feudal times to the 17th century. Most useful are 196 line drawings of arms with all parts labelled which thus form an excellent German glossary of weapons terminology. There are also 18 photographs. All objects illustrated are from the old Zeughaus collections. The cost from most dealers is about \$3.

The third and final volume is *Uniform und Tradition* by Oscar Bluth. It has not yet been possible to obtain a copy of this work, but it is listed as

being published in the same format with some 80 pages and many drawings.

* * *

From England comes the Psywar Society *Bulletin* No. 1 which appeared in January of this year. It is a 10-page mimeographed publication, the official organ of an international association of psychological warfare historians and collectors of aerial propaganda leaflets. The first issue contains an article on enemy leaflets of the Korean War. Interested members should write to the Hon. Secretary, P. H. Robbs, 8, Ridgway Road, Barton Seagrave, Kettering, Northants, England. The subscription fee is 10s per annum.

* * *

In the field of American firearms, The Stackpole Company has just released *Rifles, a Modern Encyclopedia* by Henry M. Stebbins (\$12.50). Despite its title, this volume deals with modern sporting rifles only. There is no historical section, and military rifles are covered only insofar as they may be used for hunting.

* * *

Charles L. "Pie" Dufour, popular New Orleans journalist and public speaker, has produced the first full-length biography of Chatham Roberdeau Wheat, one of the most colorful and legendary figures that served in the Confederate Army. Based on sound research, and fully documented, *Gentle Tiger: The Gallant Life of Roberdeau Wheat* (Baton Rouge: Louisiana State University Press. \$3.50) presents a great deal of new information and separates a lot of the fact from fiction that has been repeatedly written about Wheat and the Louisiana Tigers, the "toughest battalion in the army," as Dr. Douglas S. Freeman called them. Ordnance students should find the chapter entitled, "Wheat's Accelerating Cannon," of special interest. Appearing almost concurrently with Dufour's book was *Old Bob Wheat—High Private* (Baton Rouge: Ortlieb Press, Inc. \$2.00), written by Alison Moore. In this publication Miss Moore traces Wheat's career only up to 1861. It reflects extensive research in the field, and presents quite a number of interesting facts relating to Wheat's adventures in Mexico, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Italy. However, the book is poorly documented and has other glaring evidences of being hastily compiled.

RECORDS

In the record department the outstanding release of the last few months was, of course, Richard Bales' *The Union* (Columbia Records, \$10). A companion piece to his earlier work, *The Confederacy*, it is put up in the same elaborate style with essays by Bruce Catton, Clifford Dowdey, Allan Nevins, and Bales himself in a 60-page heavily illustrated book which is bound as part of the album. As in the earlier work, Bales uses the war-time music as a starting point but develops new arrangements and sometimes new themes to interweave with them. Musically it is a superb production with great emotional appeal, and Columbia's high standard of faithful recording. Many of the well-known songs of the war are there, and in addition there are a few, such as "The Invalid Corps," "Hold On Abraham," and "The President's Funeral March" which will be new to most listeners.

One interesting feature of the record is the fir-

ing of a 12-pdr howitzer to produce the sound of the cannon shot which signalled the beginning of the Grand Review at the end of the war. In order to obtain an accurate reproduction of the sound, a gun crew of eight men, four of whom were COMPANY Members, donned full uniform and fired one of the howitzers at Manassas National Battlefield Park in the manner prescribed in the Civil War manuals, using a charge of three-quarters of a pound of black powder (mixed ffg and blasting powder) and a plaster projectile with a sabot which weighed about 5 pounds. The full field charge for the gun would have been one pound. The whole procedure was photographed in color and black-and-white, both stills and movies. The sound when transferred to the disc unfortunately lost considerably in volume but still causes many record players to jump unless the head is weighted. Nevertheless, if members listen closely just before the shot, they can hear Member Robert L. Miller, the gunner, yell, "Fire!"

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